



25 years
of Preservation

West Adams Matters

A Fraternity of Preservationists *By April Sommer*

At 8 a.m. on a typical summer weekend, USC's Greek Row is a ghost town. However, on any given Saturday this past summer, the students and alumni of Alpha Rho Chi were already hard at work repairing and restoring their historic home. 715 West 28th Street is home to the Shankland House, also known as the Andronicus Chapter House and, since 1994, Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument No. 610.

In contrast to a much less sensitive construction project being pursued by the Phi Delta Theta fraternity two blocks west on Fraternity Row (see related story on page 7), Alpha Rho Chi's project is a shining example of historic preservation.

A 112-year-old eclectic Colonial Revival, the Shankland House is one of the last of its kind on a street that was once home to dozens of impressive houses for the Los Angeles elite of the early twentieth century. The house was built for esteemed Los Angeles lawyer James Horton Shankland, a partner in the law firm Graves, O'Melveny & Shankland, known today as O'Melveny & Meyers, the 19th largest law firm in the

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Book Launch Party Meet the Authors of "West Adams"

*Saturday, November 22; Reception 2:30 p.m.; Author Talk 4 p.m.
The Amat Residence (AKA Theda Bara/Fatty Arbuckle Mansion)
649 West Adams Blvd.*

One was a silver screen vamp, a tempestuous temptress famed for leading men astray with her flimsy costumes. The other was a charming lady from an old California family, the society wife of a naval officer. It seems that Theda Bara and Tulita Wilcox Miner would have little in common, but gossip columns bemoaned Mrs. Miner's civilizing influence when she rented her house to the actress. The house certainly didn't civilize comedian Fatty Arbuckle, who bought it in 1920, shortly before an accusation of rape and manslaughter at a wild party in San Francisco ended his career.

You can judge for yourself when you visit this famed mansion at a reception, house tour, lecture, and book-signing with authors Suzanne Tarbell Cooper, Don Lynch and John Kurtz. You may come away more civilized...or perhaps just a little bit wilder.

At the turn of the twentieth century, West Adams was making history. From mansions to bungalows, the area was home to fascinating men and women. Many of their stories have been remembered and rediscovered the threesome's new book from Arcadia Publishing: *West Adams*.

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*Theda Bara at home at 649 West Adams Street
(photo courtesy Marc Wunamaker/Bison Archives)*



Let There Be Light: A Festival of Lights in West Adams Avenues

WAHA's 22nd Annual Holiday Historic Architecture Tour and Progressive Dinner
Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7

WAHA will celebrate the warm glow of the season with A Festival of Lights in West Adams Avenues, at the 22nd Annual Holiday Historic Tour and Progressive Dinner, on Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7. We'll make merry amid bright lights and bedecked homes, toasting the season with champagne and an enticing holiday feast.

Traditions involving light exist around the world during the dark solstice months of November and December. Cultures globally celebrate the magic and wonder of special holidays with lights and lighting ceremonies. In Southern Asia, for example, several religious traditions include a Festival of Lights, symbolizing victory of brightness over darkness. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, is celebrated for eight days, to commemorate the victory of the Jews

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CRAFT FAIR

Sunday, November 16 (rain or shine)
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Eureka Café, 4053 Washington Blvd.

Eureka Café, West Adams' newest coffee house and restaurant, has generously donated the use of their patio to hold a craft fair. Come out to support your local crafters and artisans, and avoid the chaos of the malls at the holiday season. Here, you'll be able to shop and relax at the same time! Browse the wares while you chill in the shade of the patio umbrellas with a cup of joe. Better yet, order a yummy breakfast or lunch. And, if you haven't tried Therese's banana bread yet, you are in for a treat!

And...CALLING ALL ARTISTS, ARTISANS & CRAFTERS!

We need participants to make this happen! Please encourage your creative friends, relatives and neighbors to join us. Tables will be provided and will be sectioned off as follows:
 Six 3-foot spots @ \$10 each
 Two 4-foot spots @ \$12 each
 Set up begins at 7:30 a.m. and Eureka opens at 8 a.m., so we should be ready to sell by then.

If you are interested, please contact Lara Elin at lulutoes@ca.rr.com and use the subject line "Crafter." When you submit, please write a brief description of what you would like to sell, and if you have photos, or a website, please send those along as well. We only have eight spaces available, so hurry! Anyone and everyone is welcome, but we would like to give West Adams residents first choice.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!
 P.S. *please don't* contact Eureka about this- they are only providing the space and have nothing to do with the organizing of the event. Thanks! ●

WAHA Seeks Reps for City Advisory Committees

Since its inception, West Adams Heritage Association has held a variety of seats on Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Project Area Committees and other governmental/ citizen advisory committees. If you would like to represent WAHA on one of these panels, please contact Eric Bronson, eb@birdmarella.com or 323-737-1163. We currently have a need for a representative to the CRA's Mid-City Corridors Project Area. ●

President's Message by Jim Robinson

The afternoon phone call came as a surprise, as most phone calls do. The unexpected voice at the other end had roots going back to WAHA's beginnings. "This is Donald Ferguson," said the man who still lives in the same John C. Austin-designed home on 27th Street. (Readers may remember the house, crammed full of art work, from WAHA's "Monuments of West Adams" tour last June.)

Don had read my column in last month's issue of *West Adams Matters*, and he'd noted my plea for early back issues of our newsletter. Ironically, while WAHA has spent 25 years saving West Adams' architectural history, it hasn't been as diligent about preserving its own. We hope to rectify that by tracking down our old publications, digitizing them and making them available on our web site. I'd written that, thanks to our storage shed and some long-time members, we'd managed to assemble all but 13 of the more than 250 newsletters WAHA has published over the years. Unfortunately, the 13 missing issues included the first 12 and, mysteriously, No. 51. Don's amazing news: he had four of them!

Minutes later, Don was at my front door, holding out four legal-size, mimeographed sheets — the format of WAHA's nameless newsletter back in its early years of publication. They were numbers 3, 6, 7 and, it turned out, 51, the missing issue whose mystery turned out to be that it bore no number (but the dates of its contents gave it away).

Interestingly, while WAHA was founded in 1983, its No. 3 newsletter wasn't published until January 1985. (Perhaps some of our early members recall how WAHA communicated in the intervening months.) So, what was WAHA writing about in January 1985? Its second tour of historic homes. Here's what they said:

"Strains of ragtime music filled the air, and homes were festooned with colorful balloons. On 20th Street, closed this day to modern vehicles, were parked instead vintage cars. The West Adams Heritage Association threw a party, and it was a success: more than 250 visitors, almost double last year's number, toured a dozen of our turn-of-the-century residences at the second annual West Adams Historic Homes Tour on November 4. The tour grossed more than \$3,000 after expenses, which will be spent on community revitalization projects. This association earned seven times more money than it did in the first tour, a year ago."

Today, as 200 volunteers prepare for the 600 or so guests expected at our 22nd Holiday Tour next month, it's nice to reflect on the dedicated people who got things started a quarter century ago. They thought they were merely preserving history, but actually they were making it.

Jim Robinson can be reached via e-mail, jghrobinson@ca.rr.com

Robert Leary Honored for "Saving the Ennis House"

By John Kurtz

Robert Leary, a longtime WAHA member and resident of Kinney Heights on 24th Street, over the past few years has dedicated his time and efforts to help save the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Ennis House in the nearby Hollywood Hills. Now he has been recognized by The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, which awarded him their highest honor, The Wright Spirit Award, at a ceremony on September 20 acknowledging his untiring and unlimited efforts in leading the restoration of this historic home.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, an international preservation organization, is based in Chicago, Illinois. Founded in 1989, its mission is to facilitate the preservation and maintenance of the remaining structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright through education, advocacy, preservation easements, and technical services. Since the Conservancy's formation, its constituency has grown to include thousands of members and supporters worldwide.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy 2008 annual conference was held September 18-21 in Western Pennsylvania. The gala dinner, on Saturday evening, featured a talk by Frank Lloyd Wright's grandson, architect Eric Lloyd Wright. Presented at the dinner were the Wright Spirit Awards, the highest accolades given by the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, to individuals and organizations that demonstrate extraordinary efforts in stewardship of Wright buildings or furtherance of the Wright legacy.

Gail Fox, curator of the Wright-designed Schwartz House in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, had this to say about the awards presentation. "People were so obviously pleased by the announcement of the award recipient. What struck me and stuck with me were not the specific remarks that Robert made upon accepting the award for the group, but the humility and grace he demonstrated while accepting it so modestly on behalf of the Ennis House Foundation. Fortunately, the Conservancy left no doubt about the level of planning and effort the accomplishment entailed. Robert's demeanor and words were eloquent and moving."

Although many Wright structures are designated National Historic Landmarks or are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, such designation does not guarantee that these structures are not threatened due to homeowner disinterest and/or encroaching development. Other structures present preservation challenges beyond the financial means of their owners, placing a premium on the Conservancy's efforts as the only preservation organization concerned solely with the entire body of Wright's work.

In March, 2005, City of Los Angeles inspectors red tagged the Ennis House due to a failing retaining wall caused by Southern California's recent rainstorms. This historic home is a 1924 concrete block masterpiece that has been used as a location in several Hollywood films including "Blade Runner" and "The House on Haunted Hill." A support group with members from the Los Angeles Conservancy, the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, the National Trust, and other local historic preservation organizations was formed to address continuing decline of the structure. Leary agreed to run the group as President, which he did for two years along with handling all the mundane and everyday tasks that go along with being responsible for a historic structure. During his tenure money was raised, plans were drawn up, restoration of the exterior was completed, and most of the interior was also restored to pristine condition. He continues to volunteer many hours monthly to keeping the Ennis House up and running, and to its continued restoration.

Learn more at http://my.journaltimes.com/post/wright-in-racine/the_ennis_house_restored.html. And, let's give Robert a big round of applause and thank him for being an example for us in historic preservation. ●



Stepping Out

Book Launch Party *continued from page 1*

The three authors have each owned original homes in West Adams for more than 15 years. Their new book features historic photographs of houses, businesses, schools, and theatres, with stories about the people who lived, worked and played there. Many photos are from private collections or little known archives and have never before been published.

For this very special event, WAHA will host a reception and book signing. The event will include a short talk and visual presentation, at 4 p.m., by the authors featuring some of the anecdotes and stories behind their favorite buildings. Rediscover favorite buildings, or learn about some you haven't yet noticed, during this unique neighborhood overview.

The beautiful Tudor manse where we will meet is one of the few in West Adams that boasts the kind of celebrity lineage common to estates in Beverly Hills. Along with Theda Bara's well-publicized vampy antics at the residence and Fatty Arbuckle's constant flow of parties (including, reportedly, a pooch wedding where his own bulldog, Luke, was best man...er, dog), 649 West Adams is also said to have been home to Raoul Walsh and Miriam Cooper, and movie mogul Joseph Schenk and his wife, the actress Norma Talmadge. When the couple lived there, a magazine wrote: "Probably the world's most exquisite bedroom. Indirect lighting and everything. The walls are tinted in orchid and green, and the furniture is hand-painted in pale shades of orchid that exactly match the walls. The draperies are of orchid and green taffeta and the rug is a delicate gray velvet."

When it was erected, this grand Tudor was described as having mahogany-paneled walls, a drawing room large enough to accommodate 200, and an elaborately carved front door imported from Spain. Arbuckle paid \$250,000 for the place, which included a six-car garage for his collection: a Rolls Royce given to him by Schenk, a Cadillac Town Car, a White, a Renault Roadster, and a Stevens-Duryea. Arbuckle's taste was extravagant: he had a crystal chandelier "festooned with a thousand candles," and bathtubs plated with gold leaf.

By the mid-1920s, the Doheny family had purchased the mansion. In the late 1950s, ownership transferred to the Vincentian Brothers, who have been loving stewards for half a century. They are associated with the landmark St. Vincent's Cathedral just next door (and if you haven't seen this imposing religious building we encourage you to come early and take a peek inside before the WAHA reception).

See the Miner-Bara-Arbuckle-Schenk mansion and learn about so many other West Adams landmarks from these expert authors. Suzanne Tarbell Cooper's previous books for Arcadia Publishing include *Art Deco Los Angeles*, *Theatres in Los Angeles* and *Long Beach Art Deco*. She is a board member of the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles and has been a member of WAHA since moving here in 1990.

Don Lynch is the noted author of the best selling *Titanic - An Illustrated History* and *Ghosts of the Abyss - A Journey into the Heart of the Titanic*. He is a former Vice President and Official Historian of the Titanic Historical Society.

John Kurtz has been a Board Member and President of Friends of Hollyhock House in Hollywood, and founding member of Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy. He was a member of West Adams Heritage Association's Board of Directors for over 12 years.

Arcadia Publishing is the leading local history publisher in the United States, with a catalog of more than 5,000 titles in print and hundreds of new titles released every year. Established in 1993, Arcadia has blended a visionary management approach with the innovative application of state-of-the-art technology to create high-quality historical publications in small local niches. Arcadia Publishing is best known for its popular *Images of America* series, which chronicles the history of communities from Bangor, Maine, to Manhattan Beach, California. With more than two hundred vintage black-and-white photographs, each title celebrates a town or region, bringing to life the people, places, and events that define the community.

Give friends and relatives a peek at the history of West Adams, and benefit WAHA as well, with a holiday of gift of this unique new book. Proceeds from the sale of books at this event will benefit WAHA. Since WAHA is serving refreshments at this reception, we would appreciate your RSVP. Please e-mail publicity@westadamsheritage.com. ●

Top to bottom left: Theda Bara as Cleopatra; Fatty Arbuckle; Norma Talmadge; above right: Annet Residence today



Griffith Part Post-Fire Flora & Fauna:

The California Native Plant Society, Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter Presents A Special Talk Tuesday, November 11

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Peace Awareness Labyrinth & Gardens, 3500 West Adams Blvd.

In May 2007, nearly one-fourth of Griffith Park burned in a massive wildfire. This spurred the City to re-examine the park's undeveloped lands, and led to the development of a management plan plus baseline monitoring of the park's biodiversity (see www.griffithparkwildlife.org). Headed by Dan Cooper, an independent biologist formerly with Audubon California, this project has galvanized local interest in the park's natural resources, and has yielded new information on several scarce and declining plant and animal species, especially Calochortus lilies, amphibians, and nesting birds. Cooper will describe these efforts at this special Veterans' Day presentation.

A "New and Native" Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene

Continuing to January 26, 2009

MaryLou and George Boone Gallery, the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

The Huntington, in partnership with the Gamble House, USC, will present the most comprehensive exhibition ever undertaken on the work of Arts and Crafts architecture and design legends Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene. "A 'New and Native' Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene" is a chronological survey of the Greenses' lives and careers over a nearly 90-year period. Approximately 140 objects, many of which never have been seen by the public, from 30 of their commissions, will be on view, including significant examples that will explore important points in the evolution of the Greenses' unique design vocabulary as expressed in their precisely hewn residences and works of decorative art. The national touring exhibition will feature beautifully inlaid furniture, artfully executed metalwork, luminous stained glass, and rare architectural drawings and photographs. A full-size portion of the demolished Bandini House of Pasadena, Calif., will be recreated by architect Kelly Sutherlin McLeod for the installation. Related events include a conference, lecture, panel discussion, and concert, as well as exhibitions presented at the Pasadena Museum of California Art and the Pasadena Museum of History. A beautifully illustrated, 272-page book, *A "New and Native" Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene*, accompanies the exhibition.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens is a collections-based research and educational institution serving scholars and the general public. More information about The Huntington can be found online at www.huntington.org. ●



This entry-hall window from Jennie A. Reeve house, Long Beach, 1903-04 is one of the items on display at the Huntington exhibition.

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Preservation Matters

Shankland House Restoration

continued from page 1

world. Shankland was also paramount in the reorganization of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the creation of the Title Insurance & Trust Company in Los Angeles as well as the development of the Owens Valley Aqueduct.

When Shankland passed away in 1923, his daughter (Sarah) Elizabeth and her husband Jefferson P. Chandler moved into the house. J.P. Chandler passed away in the 1948. Elizabeth, who, according to an interview in the *Los Angeles Times* at the time, claimed to "...enjoy the excitement of life among the collegians-except perhaps the bonfires," lived out her days there until 1970. The property was then donated to the University of Southern California and sold to its current owners, the Andronicus Alumni Association.

The house is now home to and maintained by the Andronicus Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi, the nation's only co-ed professional-social fraternity for students in architecture and the allied arts.

There is always some kind of work going on at the Shankland House, whether for restoration or general maintenance. The members complete at least one project on the house each semester. Most notably, in 2005, two large projects ran concurrently. A new roof was installed on the main structure and the house library was renovated and dedicated as the Pierre Koenig Memorial Library.

Not only was Koenig a revolutionary architect, but he was also a distinguished professor at USC, a graduate of the USC School of Architecture, and a member of the Andronicus Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi.

This past summer, the members and alumni of the Andronicus Chapter had additional motivation to restore and maintain their house. In April, the Shankland House received a less than favorable inspection from the Department of Public Health. The owners were given an extensive list of minor and major repairs ranging from frosting bathroom windows to complete exterior paint removal and repaint. All of the work was to be completed for the next inspection on August 18th. With three months and a meager budget, members and alumni went to work on repairing their aging home.

A majority of the initial work was cosmetic, including interior plaster repair, molding installation and extensive painting. In an effort to retain as much of the house's historical integrity as possible, the decision was made to repair any of the interior

plaster that had been damaged or detached from the lath. This course was in favor of either removing the plaster and having it professionally re-done or replacing it with drywall. Rather than using the traditional method of re-anchoring the plaster with plaster washers, which, if attached too tightly, can cause additional cracking and leave lumps along the wall, a new technique was tested. Using products from *Big Wally's Plaster Magic*, a series of pilot holes were drilled throughout the damaged area in the plaster, a "conditioner" was sprayed into the holes, and then an adhesive was injected. The plaster was then temporarily anchored back to the lath with plastic washers and allowed to dry for 24-48 hours. After that, the anchors were removed, the small holes or cracks were minimally re-plastered and sanded, and the walls were ready to be painted. What was once bowed and loose plaster is now stabilized, reinforced and most importantly retained.

After all the damaged plaster was repaired, new crown molding and base boards were installed in various areas where molding had

either been damaged or removed due to previous renovations, and all corridor walls, ceilings, and doors on all three levels of the house were freshly painted.

Other projects were also completed by the members and alumni. The parking area and driveway required extensive concrete patching, as well as brick paver replacement and resetting. Dozens of new window screens were custom built to protect the interior and newly redone windows. Deteriorating and awkwardly placed kitchen cabinets were removed and patched to facilitate a more efficient working space. The exterior of a secondary structure on the property was repainted, and all 4,800 square feet of the main structure and 1,500 square feet of the secondary structure were meticulously cleaned.

Although a majority of the work was completed "in-house," some of the repairs required professional help. A quarter of the windows were in need of extensive repair, including glass replacement, rebuilding sash pieces, complete paint removal, and rebalancing. Home Front Design + Build (a local general contractor that specializes in renovating and rehabilitating historic homes and excels in woodworking) was then contracted to restore 14 windows on the main structure as well as the repair and refinish the wood and glass front door and threshold. Home Front was also paramount in providing recommendations for appropriate and more durable finishes such as linseed oil rather than latex paint, and also facilitated the discovery of the

(continued on next page)



Boys Behaving Badly *By Laura Meyers*

A few years ago, *WAHA Matters* showcased an article about the historic Salazar Johnson Residence and its planned "restoration" as part of a larger project to renovate the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house at 1005 West 28th Street, on the corner of Hoover. The project required discretionary approvals by both the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and the Planning Department. The project that was approved was the restoration of the historic "public" rooms (e.g., the entry, the dining room, the parlor, the Moorish-inspired "Egyptian Room," and the domed-ceiling Rotunda Room); the demolition of the carriage house and the east wing; and the reconstruction of a new east wing with kitchen and 16 bedrooms. Although a fire damaged the residence, the Phi Delta Theta fraternity proceeded in their application process to seek approvals of the original project. Unfortunately, as these photos show, they instead have demolished (without permits) the majority of the structure. At press time, CRA was considering its options, including revocation of building permits and restoration of the historic portions. *WAHA* is following the matter closely and will keep you informed. ●



Approved project (rendering); Johnson Residence in late October after unpermitted demolition.

Shankland House Restoration *continued from prior page*

original paint color of the windows sashes (black) after the deteriorating (green) paint was removed.

The biggest obstacle on the list of required repairs was the mandated complete abatement and refinishing of the exterior of the main structure. Ideally the house would be completely stripped of its various layers and kinds of paint and recoated with a more historically appropriate, durable and environmentally friendly pigmented linseed oil. But after exploring the various possible directions, and finding none to be currently financially feasible, the decision was made to carefully remove paint that was chipping and loose, and apply another layer of paint to temporarily contain existing finishes and protect the original wood until sufficient funding can be acquired.

Due to the overwhelming efforts put forth by the members and alumni, all the work over the summer was completed for under \$20,000. Most of the funding came directly from the owners of the house, the Andronicus Alumni Association. Partial funding for the window restoration as well as general research and preservation recommendations were provided by fledgling organization S.A.R.C.H., a non-profit organization created largely for fundraising, researching and upholding the historic integrity of the property.

After all of the frenetic summer work and fundraising efforts, August 18th turned out to be rather anti-climactic for the Shankland House and the active members and alumni of the Andronicus Chapter. The inspector never showed up to scrutinize the property. Nonetheless, restoration and fundraising efforts continue for the house.

For more information regarding this article, or to donate to this historical restoration effort, please contact April Sommer at aprilgsommer@yahoo.com. ●



WAHA Matters

WAHA Halloween Fest was Frightful Fun!

There was a pony, a jumper, hot dogs on the grill, and costumed tots everywhere. Pictures tell the story.



MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following companies offer discounts to WAHA members. Remember to show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

Silverlake Architectural Salvage

1085 Manzanita Street, Silverlake,
323-667-2875

20% discount on all purchases

Ted Gibson, Inc.

2866 West 7th St. Los Angeles 90005,
213-382-9195

20% discount on purchases of art materials and picture frames

Best Lock and Safe Service contact: David Kim

2203 W. Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, 323-733-7716

10% discount on lock and safe labor and materials

Washington Dog & Cat Hospital

1692 W. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles,
323-735-0291

50% off office exams

Meyers Roofing

5048 W. Jefferson Blvd., 323-733-0188

10% discount

Lighthouse Stained Glass

5155 Melrose, 323-465-4475

20% discount off regular class prices with WAHA membership card

Cafe Club Fais Do Do

5257 West Adams Blvd., 323-954-8080

No cover charge at door, and 20% discount on all meals.

Sherwin-Williams

1367 Venice Blvd. 213-365-2471

20% off regular product price (with WAHA discount card)

Dourousseau Electric

2526 W. Jefferson Blvd. 323-734-2424 or
323-734-6149 (cell)

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Lady Effie's Tea Parlor

453 East Adams Boulevard, 213-749-2204

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Los Angeles Stripping & Finishing Center

1120 N. San Fernando Road, Los Angeles,
323-225-1073

5% discount on any single service order over \$1000.

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A CALL TO MEMBERS

If you frequent a local business retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. ask them if they would offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they'd benefit from the increased exposure to local consumers, and be listed in the WAHA monthly newsletter. Or, call me at 323-733-6869 and I'll contact them -- Steve Wallis



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Festival of Lights: WAHA's Holiday Tour *continued from page 1*

over the Hellenist Syrians in 165 BCE, and the miracle that a small amount of oil kept the Temple lights burning, not for one night, but for all the eight nights until new oil fit for use in the temple could be obtained.

Festivals in a number of ancient civilizations were celebrated with lights. The Druids in both France and England believed that oak trees were sacred, and they ornamented them with candles and fruit in honor of their gods of light and harvest. The ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia included trees decorated with candles and small gifts.

And spirituality is not the only source of this tradition: towns throughout America today use Holiday Festivals of Lights to rally community spirit. Indeed, the West Adams Avenues neighborhood encourages residents to light up their streets in December with beautiful twinkling lights and holiday decorations.

The West Adams Avenues neighborhood was originally part of the Arlington Heights Township laid out in 1887 on an elevated plateau that rose between Adams and Pico streets just outside the Los Angeles city limits. The neighborhood became one of Los Angeles's elite residential districts. Over this timeframe, famed architects like Charles Shattuck, Paul Williams, and Hudson & Munsell designed many fine examples of Victorian, Craftsman, Shingle, Colonial, Spanish Revival, Tudor, Norman, and other eclectic revival architectural styles in the Avenues, building modest bungalows and grand mansions alike.

After the Santa Monica Freeway was erected in the 1960s, the southerly part of Arlington Heights became its own distinct pocket neighborhood. In the late 1990s, the West Adams Avenues neighborhood association was established. The organization has planted trees, repaired sidewalks, coordinated the many film productions in the neighborhood, and helped improve the local park, renaming it the Benny H. Potter West Adams Avenues Memorial Park in honor of a longtime resident.

But you wanted to know more about WAHA's 2008 Holiday Tour.

WAHA's traditional holiday tour features a sumptuous progressive dinner, with each course served in one of the featured properties. This year we are "shining a light" on the world's cuisines, and will feature an internationally-inspired holiday menu. We've also scheduled a Sunday afternoon walking tour, without the food.

The tour will raise funds for WAHA, which since its founding in 1983 has used revenues from a variety of tours to support preservation of the community's architectural and cultural heritage.

WAHA has been dressing up and opening our holiday doors to visitors for 21 years. Since its inception, we have created, cooked up, and dished out not only twenty main courses, but also at least 40 different appetizers, 25-plus desserts, a score of delicious salads, and countless variations (from curried to sherried to gingered) of pumpkin and squash soup -- served up each year to some 600 visitors and volunteers.

As always, many, many, many volunteers are needed for this year's Holiday Tour. All the houses and kitchens need to be

staffed on the nights of the Tour. And we rely on Tour Shepherds to escort our tour guests from house to house. But in addition there are lots of volunteers who assist behind the scenes in other roles, and on other days. Can you help with any of these tasks:

- Prep Cook – cook or bake in your own home the week before the Tour
- Volunteer Dinners - pick up and deliver volunteer dinners on Saturday 12/6 and Sunday 12/7, tentatively from 4 to 6 p.m. both days
- WAHA Holiday Party – decorate, set-up and otherwise assist with this party (for our members and wonderful volunteers) on Sunday afternoon, December 14
- Crafty types – we need your creative skills (and possibly your glue guns) to make tourgoer badges and ornaments
- Shopping - Trader Joe's, 99 Cent Store, Smart & Final, Von's, the Flower Mart — they'll all get a WAHA visit or two
- Holiday decorating – some of our tour properties can use a helping hand hanging ornaments, garland and other seasonal "attire" during the week before the Tour

If you are available any of these times, please raise your hand and volunteer. Contact us at tours@westadamsheritage.org. We have tentatively slated volunteer training for the afternoon of Sunday, November 23 (time and location TBA). This training will be MANDATORY for Shepherds (we don't want any of the little lambs to go astray).

The Holiday Tour is WAHA's major fundraising event, and helps pay for our award-winning Evening Strolls as well as our many preservation support and advocacy activities. We encourage all of our members to contribute to that effort by taking the Progressive Dinner Tour — and

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bringing their friends — on the day they are not volunteering.

In light of recent economic turmoil, we are also lowering our Early Bird prices “a tad” – while at the same time we are planning an especially festive event. If you can only afford one splurge this Holiday Season, please consider the Festival of Lights!

If you purchase your ticket by November 10, prices are \$70 for non-members, \$60 for WAHA members. After November 10, all tickets are \$85 apiece. Each year, some of you wish to purchase large groups of tickets, and we love that you do so – but please contact us no later than November 5 to reserve your block of seats. Please be sure to return the forms and your checks as early as possible, so that you and your guests will not be disappointed. It is not unusual for this event to sell out.

If you have joined WAHA at a membership level that may provide tickets to you and a guest for this tour, please DO contact us immediately (and no later than November 1) with your reservation, so we can be sure to accommodate you. As always, if you just want to peek inside the homes and you ARE volunteering for the event, you may do so -- free -- during the Sunday afternoon walking tour.

As you can see, WAHA’s Holiday Tour is a complex event. If you would like more information about any aspect of the tour, contact Tour Chair Lindsay Wiggins at tours@westadamsheritage.org.

The Fine Print:

- Advance Ticket Sales Only — No Walk-ins!
 - Holiday Tour & Progressive Dinner: General admission, \$85 (Early Bird price \$70, postmarked by November 10); WAHA members, \$60 (must be postmarked by November 10; after that the price is \$85)
 - Saturday, December 6: Docent-led tours depart on the half-hour from 3 p.m. through 6 p.m.
 - Sunday, December 7: Docent-led tours depart on the half-hour from 3:30 p.m. through 5:45 p.m.
 - Holiday Walking Tour (Sunday afternoon only): \$30
- Check in between Noon and 2 p.m. Houses will close promptly at 3 p.m.



To order tickets in advance, please send in your reservation form and a check made payable to “WAHA” to:
WAHA Holiday Tour
 2209 Virginia Road, Los Angeles, CA 90016

Please include an e-mail address or phone number for confirmation. Confirmations will primarily be sent out via e-mail, and not until November 20th or thereafter. (As you might imagine, since this tour routinely sells out, we are juggling who is on what tour until nearly the last minute!) The reservation form is available online at www.WestAdamsHeritage.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or to confirm reservations, please call the WAHA Reservations Hotline at 323-732-4223, e-mail wahaholiday@aol.com, or visit www.WestAdamsHeritage.org.

[Please note that we have provided two distinct e-mail addresses for different purposes in this article, and we repeat them here:
 To VOLUNTEER, write tours@westadamsheritage.org
 For TOUR INFORMATION, and RESERVATIONS, GROUP TOURS, etc., write wahaholiday@aol.com] ●

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Community Matters

Introducing MOMS of West Adams

By Skye Peyton

MOMS Club of West Adams is a Los Angeles Chapter of MOMS Club International (www.momsclub.org). We are a non-profit group providing support for mothers who are with their children during the day. We offer activities and resources for moms with children and raise money for community organizations benefiting mothers and children. Each month we have a variety of activities for moms and their kids, including play groups, field trips, mom's night out and service projects.

We have all different age moms, and some who work part time and/or from home.

The general boundaries for MOMS Club of West Adams are:

North: Pico Blvd.

East: 110 Freeway

South: Exposition Blvd. from La Brea Ave. to 110 Freeway

West: La Cienega Blvd. north of 1-10; La Brea Ave. south of I-10

For more information, please contact us via e-mail (momsclubwestadams@yahoo.com) or visit www.momsclubwestadams.org. ●

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Community Matters

On the Move: USC Relocates Historic House to Vacant Lot on 30th Street

Sometimes there are fairy-tale happy endings.

In August 2002, unpermitted demolition destroyed the USC-owned Van Cott House at 921 West 30th Street. The property is located within a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Project Area now known as Exposition-University Park. No permits had been issued with the required CRA sign off. In fact, Sanders Ishisaka, planner for the project area, had denied a demolition permit at that location.



The significance of the residence was described in the community's historic survey as "a relatively intact two story American Foursquare residence" and one which "maintains historic association with the development of the area." Although a stop work order was issued by Building and Safety, the

demolition continued throughout a weekend, and as you can see, the entire residence was lost.

Now the good news: USC worked with the CRA and agreed to identify an appropriate historic house to move and relocate to the 30th



Demolished house, 2002 (above); newly relocated house today; the Ahn House awaiting its move (below)

Street site. And now they have! Obviously, much restoration work remains to be done, but we applaud even the first baby steps.

This is not the first time the university has moved a house. The Forthman Residence sits quite prominently on the corner of 27th and Hoover today, but it started its life more than 100 years ago



on Figueroa. And USC also has moved historic buildings around its campus. The Ahn House, pictured left, was moved in 2004 to the north side of the campus. The Alumni House has also been moved to several different locations on the campus. ●



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Solar & More: Craftsman Bungalow, Jefferson Park — Extensive woodwork, great period detail, new systems. 3 BD, 1 BA, 2062 West 29th St. \$569,000. David Raposa

Grand Jefferson Park Bungalow — Biggest bungalow on the block! 2,240 sq ft, 3 BD, 2 BA, liv, dining, library, etc. 2078 West 29th Place. \$599,000. David Raposa

Coming Soon — Craftsman bungalow in Anaheim's historic Melrose-Kroeger District. Adam Janeiro, 323-401-3952

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Adams-Normandie Craftsman — (Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent)

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Central L.A. Probate — (Nancy Deaven, seller's agent)

SOLD

Jefferson Park Spanish — (Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent) — Welcome, Jana Mariana and Motti Danino!

David Raposa, Conrado Alberto,
Darby Bayliss, Nancy Deaven,
Jane Harrington, Suzanne Henderson,
Adam Janeiro, Carlton Joseph

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Return to: WAHA
2263 S. Harvard Blvd
Historic West Adams
Los Angeles, CA 90018

_____ Please DO NOT include my name, address, e-mail, or telephone in the WAHA membership directory.

We support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and seek to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques.



West Adams Heritage Association
2263 S. Harvard Boulevard
Historic West Adams
Los Angeles California 90018
323-735-WAHA (323-735-9242)
www.WestAdamsHeritage.org

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ADVERTISING RATES

FOR DISPLAY ADS

This Newsletter is published 11 times a year

Full Page: \$175 monthly; \$1,800 annually

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Business Card (3 3/4 x 2 1/4): \$25 monthly, \$260 annually

The deadline for ad content is the 1st of the prior month.

Please Note: WAHA does not endorse or claim responsibility for any of the services, products or items for sale that advertisers have listed in these pages.

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

Anybody have an empty garage? I'm looking to rent one for my classic car while I restore it. No work will be done on the car in the garage, I just need a place to keep it out of the elements and store parts during the process. Please contact Paul at (323) 687-3717.

Gladding McBean Garden Bench, circa 1920-1930s — Good condition, turquoise color. \$10,000 value; will sell for \$5,000. You will have to arrange for shipping etc. Contact Don 323-735-6216, days 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Getting a Mills Act contract requires advance planning. If your home, apartment building or commercial building is not a Historic-Cultural Monument or it is not in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone NOW is the time to attempt to make it an HCM if you are contemplating Mills Act for next year. Call Anna Marie Brooks, architectural historian, at 310-650-2143.

100s of doors (and other historic architectural materials) for sale — Contact Roland, 310-392-1056.

Kathleen Cooper is an experienced designer and project manager, who specializes in historic homes of West Adams. Free consult, 323-731-6360.

Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact lauramink@aol.com, NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.

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Calendar ✓

Upcoming West Adams Events

Sunday, November 16:

Craft Fair, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Eureka Cafe, 4053 W. Washington Blvd., rain or shine (see story, page 2)

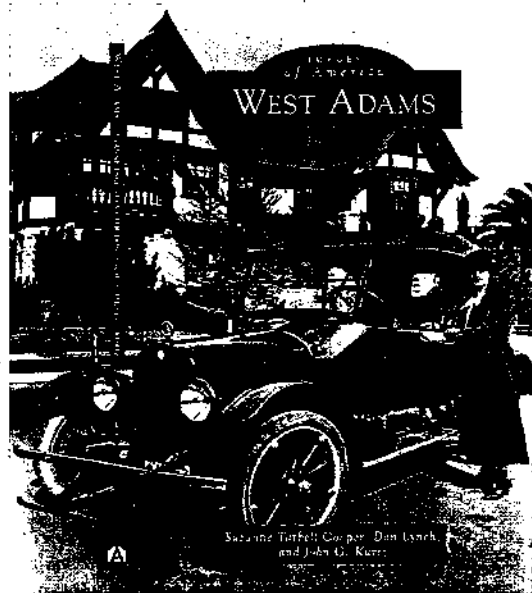
Saturday, November 22:

WAHA Book Launch Party — Reception and House Tour, 2:30 p.m. Author Talk and Book Signing, 4 p.m. at the Amat Residence (also known as the Theda Bara/Fatty Arbuckle Mansion), 649 West Adams Blvd. (see story, page 1)

Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7:

A Festival of Lights, WAHA's Annual Holiday Tour & Progressive Dinner in West Adams Avenues (see story, page 1)

Sunday afternoon, December 14: WAHA Holiday Party



A photo of the Ezra Stimson Mansion graces the cover of Arcadia's newest edition of its Images of America series, *West Adams*, authored by WAHA's own Suzanne Tarbell Cooper, John Kurtz, and Don Lynch.

Please join WAHA and the authors of the just-published book, "West Adams," at a reception, talk and book signing on Saturday, November 22, starting at 2:30 p.m. (talk at 4 p.m.), at the famed Theda Bara/Fatty Arbuckle Mansion, 649 West Adams Blvd.

The WAHA Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2008. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.

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